

# FORM B - BUILDING

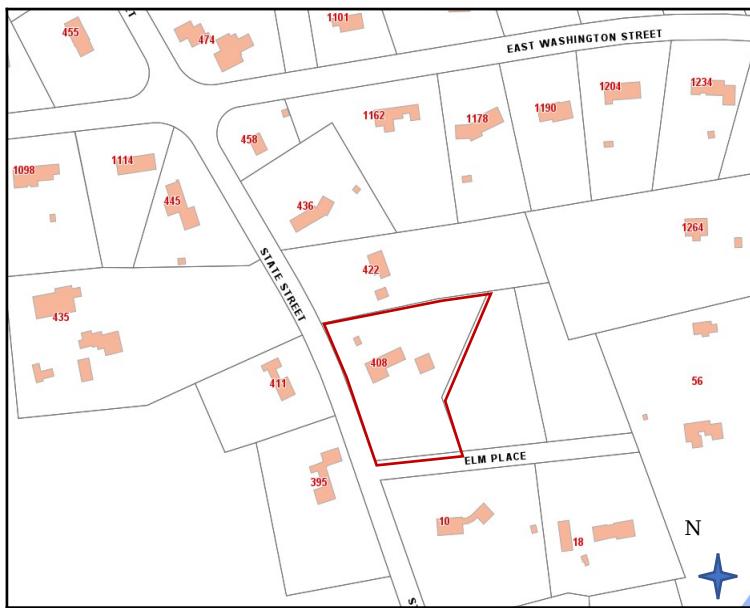
Date (month / year): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson  
community preservation + planning

**Organization:** Hanson Historical Commission

112-0-3-0	Hanover		HNS.257
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**Town/City:** Hanson

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 408 State Street

**Historic Name:** Ansell and Charlotte Elms  
House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family Dwelling

Original: Single-Family Dwelling

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1810

**Source:** 1810 and 1820 U.S. Census

**Style/Form:** No Style/Cape

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Stone

Wall/Trim: Aluminum/Aluminum

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:** A large barn/garage is located to the east of the house and a small screen house is located to the north

**Major Alterations (with dates):** Full width shed dormer (early 20<sup>th</sup> cent.), aluminum siding and windows, and addition to east facade

**Condition:** Fair

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 1.27 Acres

**Setting:** The house sits at the top of a small hill overlooking the winding roadway and is surrounded by single family homes located on large lots, many of which are covered in substantial vegetation.

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The one-and-a-half story Cape style home has an asphalt shingled gable roof with long shed style dormers on both the east and west roof slopes. The house faces west towards State Street and sits slightly above the road at the top of a small hill. The gable roof has narrow eaves on its gable facades, stops flush with the gable-end facades, and has a single, narrow, corbeled chimney at its center. A low, one-story gable roofed addition extends to the east from the rear of the house. The entire house is aluminum clapboard sided and any original trim or architectural detailing is covered in aluminum trim as well. The house has a mix of early wood two-over-two windows which are visible in the shed dormer on the west façade, and one-over-one aluminum replacement windows which are found throughout the first floor of the house. All of the windows on the original Cape style section of the house have decorative aluminum shutters installed on either side of the window frames.

The west façade of the house is entirely symmetrical in design. A double hung window is located in the center of the shed dormer directly above the entrance to the house. To either side, two closely spaced double hung windows are located on each floor. The entrance has a solid paneled wood door with two glass panes at the top and is protected by a storm door. The door opens onto a wide cement landing with a cement walkway to the street.

On the north gable-end, the house has two closely spaced double hung windows in the gable-end and two widely spaced windows on the first floor. A small aluminum vent is located at the peak of the roof. The south gable-end is identical in design. On the east façade, the shed dormer is no longer symmetrical, with two double hung windows in its left half and a single window to the right. Two double hung windows are visible to the left of the long east façade addition which extends from the northeast corner of the east facade. The low gable roof of the addition intersects the house at the eaves and extends east across approximately two-thirds of the addition before lowering into a nearly flat roof at its far eastern end. Only the south façade of the addition is visible from the public way, which is made up of large, closely spaced double hung windows with a side entrance beneath a storm door close to its intersection with the house.

The house is located on a large lot with low stone walls and heavy vegetation at its property lines. Evergreen bushes are located along the west façade and surround the house to the north and west. A stone lined, asphalt-paved driveway leads from State Street along the south façade of the house to a large gable-end roofed barn which is now used as a garage. The barn has an asphalt shingled roof and wood shingled sides with a garage and pedestrian door located on its west façade. Its south façade can be viewed from a distance. From this vantage point, the barn appears to be constructed on wood piers and sits above the surrounding land which slopes down to the east of the site. To the north of the house is a small screen house. The structure has low wood shingled walls below large screens set between wood posts. The building has a high, asphalt shingled hip roof with a hip roofed dormer in its west façade decorated with two tiny windows. Exposed rafter tails are visible below the wood eave and the entrance is not visible from the public way. The structure appears to be an early twentieth century addition to the property with no architectural connection to the house.

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## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

According to White's History of Hanson, the house at 408 State Road was constructed around 1800 for Ansel Elms, father of Daniel R. and John Lazell Elms. Ansell Elms (1767-1842) was born in Pembroke and married Charlotte Bonney there in 1792. According to the 1800 and 1810 U.S. Federal Censuses, the couple lived first in Abington and then to Pembroke, which Hanson was incorporated from in 1820. In the 1820 U.S. Federal Census, Ansell is listed in Hanson with a family of nine including one adult working in agriculture and one in manufacturing, although the details of the individuals and their trades are not listed. Ansel continues to be listed in Hanson as working in agriculture through the 1840 U.S. Census.

Ansel Elms sold the property in 1822 to James Gardner and moved east to 56 Elm Place. The next owner noted by White, Benjamin Josselyn, purchased the house in 1827 from Gardner. Benjamin Josselyn (1800-1870) was the son of Jacob Josselyn and Abigail Warren Ryder and married Jerusha Phillips Eells in 1828, about the time that Gardner is supposed to have sold him the house at 408 State Street. Their daughter, Maria Josephine Josselyn, married Gustavus Percival, a sea captain, in 1851, and the couple was living with Benjamin and Jerusha at the time of the 1855 state census. The couple lived in the Josselyn family home through the 1880s, confirming White's statement that "G. Percival and family were in residence in recent years."

As noted elsewhere, the "P. Benjamin" on the 1856 Walling Hanson map is a misprint; the name on the 1857 Walling County map is "B. Josselyn."<sup>1</sup> Benjamin appears to have lived in the house until his death in 1870, and by the 1879 Walker Atlas simply lists "Mrs. Josselyn," presumably Benjamin's wife, Jerusha, as the owner of the house. The property appears to have been passed down to their daughter, Maria Percival, and the 1903 Richards Atlas lists the property as now belonging to Mrs. M.J. Percival. Maria died in 1904 and her estate sold the house at auction in 1908 to Annie Shute, daughter of Hannah Stoddard, who inherited the adjacent Elms Farm with her brothers after her mother's death.<sup>2</sup> Annie Shute, later Annie Baker, owned the house until 1921, when she sold it to John and Jessie Rescivich. John continued to live in the house after Jessie's death in 1940, eventually selling the house to current owners Edward and Florence Spinney in 1955.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3763p.la000319/?r=0.249,0.305,0.059,0.03,0>

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 1381, Page 555

<sup>3</sup> Plymouth Registry of Deeds, Book 2431, Page 148

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